

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-04

DHA-02 ACDA-07 MCT-01 /090 W

-----013333 061438Z /50

O 061405Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8328

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY GABORONE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MASERU BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ST

SUBJECT: SAG CRACKS DOWN

REF: PRETORIA 3862; JOHANNESBURG 2030

1. SUMMARY: THE SAG IS CRACKING DOWN ON THE CURRENT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT IN SOWETO AND OTHER TOWNSHIPS IN THE TRANSVAAL. THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE LATEST CHALLENGES TO APARTHEID INVOLVES A HARDENING OF POLICY LINE AS WELL AS A STRENGTHENING OF SUPPRESSION TACTICS. END SUMMARY.

2. OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS S.A. AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN EMPLOYING HARSH VIOLENCE TO STIFLE STUDENT BOYCOTTS AND
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DISORDERS IN THE JOHANNESBURG-PRETORIA AREA. FACED WITH THE PASSIVE ACT OF SCHOOL BOYCOTTS AND SPORADIC HIT AND RUN VIOLENCE RATHER THAN LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS, THE OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN TO DIG DEEPER INTO THE ROOTS OF THE SRC LEADERSHIP WHILE DEMORALIZING AND INTIMIDATING THE MASS OF STUDENT FOLLOWERS. IN ADDITION TO MAKING SELECTIVE BUT EXTENSIVE ARRESTS OF STUDENT LEADERS, THE POLICE HAVE

BEEN SWEEPING UP YOUTH ON THE STREETS AND MAKING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE ARRESTS OF THOSE WHO LIVE IN AREAS WHERE STONING AND SKIRMISHES HAVE TAKEN PLACE. REPORTERS HAVE OBSERVED BLACK POLICE USING TRUNCHEIONS WITH ABANDON ON STUDENTS WHO WERE BEING LOADED INTO VANS. THE EXTENSIVE USE OF DOGS, IN PARTICULAR, TURNING THEM LOOSE ON GROUPS OF STUDENTS MILLING ABOUT IN SCHOOLYARDS, ALSO APPEARS TO BE A NEW TACTIC. CHECK POINTS ON ROADS LEADING INTO THE TOWNSHIPS, NEW ENCAMPMENTS OF BLACK RIOT POLICE IN CAMOFLAGE UNIFORM, AND NUMEROUS POLICE PICK-UPS ENCASED IN METAL GRILLS SPEEDING ALONG TOWNSHIP ROADS UNDERSCORE TO THE POPULACE THE POWER AND DETERMINATION OF THE STATE.

3. WHILE USING TOUGH POLICE METHODS, THE SAG HAS ASSERTED AN UNCOMPROMISING LINE ON THE MAIN ISSUES WHICH THE URBAN BLACKS ARE CURRENTLY PURSUING: REJECTION OF BANTU EDUCATION AND OF THE SAG'S PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS. VERY LIKELY THE AUGUST 4-5 CABINET MEETING IN PRETORIA CONFIRMED THE DECISION TO MOVE QUICKLY AND FIRMLY TO DEAL WITH THESE LATEST CHALLENGES TO APARTHEID. MINISTER OF POLICE JIMMY KRUGER ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 4 THE END OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PATIENCE WITH THE STUDENTS' BOYCOTT. FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH MINISTER OF BANTU EDUCATION, M.C. BOTHA, KRUGER ANNOUNCED THAT ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, A POLICE-BACKED ACTION AGAINST THE BOYCOTT WOULD BEGIN "IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC ORDER". INSPECTORS, HE SAID, WOULD VISIT TOWNSHIP
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SCHOOLS AND RECOMMEND, DEPENDING ON ATTENDANCE, TEACHERS TRANSFERS AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS. KRUGER WARNED THAT LAW AND ORDER WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE TOWNSHIPS AND THE POLICE WOULD PROTECT THE INHABITANTS AGAINST INTIMIDATION. THE NEXT DAY, AS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN ATTERIDGEVILLE WAS REPORTEDLY BACK TO TWO-THIRDS, KRUGER ISSUED ANOTHER ULTIMATUM, INDICATING FURTHER EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS THE SRC'S. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WOULD "NO LONGER" ALLOW THE TOWNSHIPS TO BE RULED BY THE SRC'S.

4. KRUGER ALSO MADE CLEAR THE SAG'S INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH ITS OWN PLANS FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS, AND ITS REJECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN. ELECTIONS FOR THE SAG-PRESCRIBED COUNCILS, HE SAID, WOULD BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (OCTOBER HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS THE PROBABLE DATE.) REITERATING THE ONE SAG CONCESSION IN THE RECENT CONFRONTATION, KRUGER SAID THE NEW COUNCIL ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE ETHNIC IN NATURE. BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND NEGOTIATING BEFORE THE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WITH "SELF-APPOINTED GROUPS" SUCH AS THE COMMITTEE OF TEN. ON AUGUST 5, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE BANNING OF THE COMMITTEE'S SECOND ATTEMPTED PUBLIC MEETING IN SOWETO.

5. ASSESSMENTS OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE URBAN BLACK
ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT AND THE SAG'S STRATEGY IN DEALING
WITH IT FOLLOWS.
BOWDLER

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